

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 63-75, 108-111, 121-124, 134-137 and 186-188 are presented for consideration. Claims 63-66 are independent. Claims 13-23, 25, 38-45, 50, 83, 99-103, 113-116, 126-129, 139, 141-171, 175-185 and 189-191 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 63-66 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Support for these changes can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

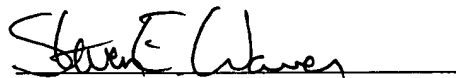
Applicants note with appreciation that pending claims 63-75, 108-111, 121-124 and 134-137 have been indicated as being allowable. Claims 186-188 depend from allowable independent claims 64-66, respectively. Therefore, these claims also should be deemed allowable.

In the Office Action dated April 28, 2004, claims 13-25, 38, 42-45, 50, 83, 98-103, 113-116, 26-129 (*sic* 126-129) and 139-174 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Also, claims 13-19, 21-25, 100-103 and 126-192 were rejected under various statutory bases as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,863,712 to Von Bunau et al. and/or U.S. Patent No. 5,617,181 to Yanagihara et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth in Applicants' prior response filed on July 28, 2004. Nevertheless, to expedite allowance of this application, claims 13-23, 25, 38-45, 50, 83, 99-103, 113-116, 126-129, 139, 141-171, 175-185 and 189-191 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the file to a continuing application directed to the subject of these claims.

All pending claims, namely, claims 63-75, 108, 111, 121-124 and 134-137, having been indicated as being allowable over the art of record, Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early notice of allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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